

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A remote information downloading device for wireless access to and downloading of vehicle information from a remote, on-board, vehicle incident recording system, the downloading device comprising:

a) at least one interface communicating with and accessing and receiving incident data from the vehicle incident recording system;

b) an information datalink coupled to said interface for transferring said received incident data from said interface; and

c) a transceiver coupled to said information datalink for accessing, receiving, downloading, and transmitting said vehicle information from the vehicle incident recording system.

2. The device of claim 1 further including an information storage device coupled to said vehicle incident recording system for capturing and storing said vehicle information.

3. The device of claim 2 wherein said information storage device is selected from the group consisting of a video tape drive, a hard disk drive, a CD ROM drive, and a solid state repository.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein said information storage device is adapted to prevent said vehicle information from being overwritten for extended periods of time.

5. The device of claim 1 wherein said vehicle information comprises identification information.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein said vehicle information comprises video information.

7. The device of claim 1 further comprising playing means for displaying said vehicle information.

8. The device of claim 7 wherein said playing means comprises a visual display.

9. The device of claim 8 wherein said visual display is adapted for viewing video information.

10. The device of claim 8 wherein said visual display comprises a visual output interface to a display screen.

11. The device of claim 8 wherein said visual display comprises an off-board visual output interface.

12. The device of claim 1 wherein said vehicle information comprises audio information.

13. The device of claim 7 wherein said playing means is adapted for playing audio information.

14. The device of claim 1 wherein said vehicle information comprises time information.

15. The device of claim 1 wherein said vehicle information comprises vehicle dynamic information.

16. The device of claim 1 wherein said vehicle information comprises vehicle control information.

17. The device of claim 1 wherein said interface is a second transceiver.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein said transceiver includes a download trigger for initiating downloading of information from said recording system.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein said download trigger is adapted to respond to the occurrence of a predetermined event.

20. The device of claim 18 wherein said download trigger is adapted to respond to transmitted instructions.

21. The device of claim 18 wherein said download trigger is adapted to require input of an electronic access code.

22. The device of claim 17 wherein said transceiver is adapted to download encrypted information from said recording system.

23. The device of claim 22 wherein said device is further adapted to decrypt said information.

24. The device of claim 3 wherein said information storage device is remotely located from said vehicle.

25. The device of claim 17 wherein said transceiver is adapted to transmit information to an off-site location.

26. The device of claim 25 wherein said transceiver provides a transmission link.

27. The device of claim 26 wherein said transmission link is a direct satellite up-link/down-link.

28. The device of claim 25 wherein said transceiver provides a transmission trigger for initiating transmission of information to an information storage device.

29. The device of claim 28 wherein said transmission trigger is adapted to respond to the occurrence of a predetermined event.

30. The device of claim 28 wherein said transmission trigger is adapted to respond to transmitted instructions.

31. The device of claim 1 wherein said device is adapted for use in a vehicle.

32. The device of claim 31 wherein said vehicle is selected from the group consisting of a police cruiser, an ambulance, a fire truck, and a rescue vehicle.

33. The device of claim 1 wherein said device is adapted for use in a stationary facility.

34. The device of claim 33 wherein said facility is selected from the group consisting of a hospital, a police station, and a fire station.

35. The device of claim 1 wherein said interface is a limited access interface.

36. A method for remotely accessing and downloading stored information from a recording system located on a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

a) activating a downloading device having an interface for accessing and downloading said stored information from said recording system,

b) receiving and playing said downloaded information; and

c) displaying said played information.

37. The method of claim 36, said information comprising vehicle identification information.

38. The method of claim 36, said information comprising video information.

39. The method of claim 36, said information comprising audio information.

40. The method of claim 36, said information comprising time information.

41. The method of claim 36, said information comprising vehicle dynamic information.

42. The method of claim 36, said information comprising vehicle control information.

43. The method of claim 36, including the steps of transmitting said information to an off-site location.

44. The method of claim 43, said transmitting performed via a transmission link.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein said transmission link is a satellite up-link/down-link.

46. The method of claim 36, including capturing and storing said information.

47. The method of claim 46, including storing said information remotely.

48. The method of claim 46, including capturing and storing said information to a device selected from the group consisting of video tape, a hard disk, a CD ROM, and a solid state repository.

49. The method of claim 46, including temporarily preventing said information from being overwritten.

50. The method of claim 36, including inputting an electronic access code.

51. The method of claim 36, including encrypting said information.

52. The method of claim 51, including decrypting said information.